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COUNTRY Poland

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

REPORT

TOPIC Polish Tank Units in Stolp

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

29 December 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Prior to the end of 1951, a barracks installation, located east of Stolp (Slupsk) (P 55/N 08) on the north side of the road to Gumbin (P 55/N 08), was occupied to capacity by a Polish tank unit. The installation consisted of two rows of three multi-story buildings, the narrow sides of which fronted on the road and could be seen from there.

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[redacted] a Polish division headquarters was in the town. [redacted] Tanks, guns, rocket launchers and motor trucks were sheltered in open wooden sheds in a parking area which was on the south side of the road and was separated from the road by a board fence. [redacted] tanks in the barracks yard.²

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2. Since early 1951, Polish tank troops were quartered in barracks installations located on the eastern edge of the town, on either side of Bluecher Strasse.

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[redacted] tanks, a small number of guns, 12 rocket launchers, trench mortars and motor trucks at the installation south of Bluecher Strasse. The guns had two disk wheels and pneumatic tires, a protective shield with two side flaps and a barrel, of 70 to 80-mm caliber. The barrel projected about a meter from the protective shield. Pedestal-mounted AA guns, which had a protective shield and four pneumatic wheels, and were drawn by three-axle trucks, also were at that installation.¹

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3. In 1951, on Army Day, Polish and a few Soviet officers reviewed troops in Stolp for about two or three hours. While the military band, wearing uniforms of Polish tank troopers, was opposite the review stand, the vehicles passed the stand individually. First to pass were five JS type tanks with three men standing on each side of the track shields; then 100 tanks including about 75 T-34 tanks, and 25 tanks with barrels, one meter long without muzzle brake, twelve rocket launchers, which were followed by numerous M1S trucks towing guns of various types and trench mortars including one truck mounting a light AA gun; and six open armored personnel carriers, each carrying 4 men followed. A group of soldiers in tank crew uniforms on trucks and two infantry companies wearing khaki uniforms armed with rifles and submachine guns brought up the rear.¹

4. Prior to November 1951, a militia school was located in the north sector of the town, on the west side of Werner Zielke Street and north of the

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Praesidenten Strasse. Units of about four companies were frequently seen marching out of this school. They had small arms and light machine guns. The training area of the school was about 2 or 3 kilometers southwest of the town and north of the road to Schlau (P 55/M 87).⁴

5. The Polish military headquarters was in a two-story building on the north side of the Bluecher Strasse and just west of a barracks installation located there.
6. The Polish district headquarters of the ID was at the south side of ul. Polska Wojskowe (formerly Bahnhof Strasse) and the west side of Bach Strasse near the intersection of these two streets.
7. A training area on which up to 25 tanks were seen cooperating with infantry was east of the town and south of the road to Gumbin.
8. Prior to November 1951, Polish naval personnel were seen quartered in the eastern section of the Stolp-Heitz airfield. Their strength was estimated at 100 to 120 men. They worked at the airfield. They wore blue navy uniforms and hat ribbons with the inscription "Marinacza Wojskowe".⁵

9. [redacted] men of the 1932 class were drafted in the spring of 1951. [redacted] men of the 1929 through 1932 classes, not previously inducted, would be inducted. In late May 1952, [redacted] the Stolp district [redacted] there was little activity at the village as all 1932-class men had been inducted.⁶

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1. [redacted] Comment. The information on a division headquarters in Stolp is probably correct. The weapons seen and the review indicate that the headquarters belong to a mechanized or armored division. It is possible that the 9th Tank Regiment was reorganized into a division.

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2. [redacted] Comment. In December 1950, this modern and large barracks installation quartered the 9th Polish Tank Regiment, and, in addition, motorized antitank units and motorized infantry units in February 1951.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The former Mackensen Kaserne is north of the Bluecher Strasse and the former Jaeger Kaserne is south of the Bluecher Strasse and quartered Soviet administrative offices which were transferred in February 1951. A Polish motorized infantry unit was previously reported located in the west section of the installation in December 1950.

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4. [redacted] Comment. As the 1932 class appears to have been inducted in the spring of 1952, it is believed that this age-class will also be inducted as was the 1930 class in 1950 and 1951. The 1933 class would then probably be inducted in the fall of 1952 and the draftees would be 19 years old as they are in the Soviet Army.

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5. [redacted] Comment. This information confirms a report of February 1951.

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6. [redacted] Comment. This information confirms the report on a militia school billeted in the former Lessingschule.

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